



Le mercredi 26 sept 2007

Le plus grand rassemblement de francos de l'histoire de l'Ontario

[Charles Thériault](#)

Le Droit

Le record du grand rassemblement de SOS Montfort est battu. L'inauguration du cinquième Monument de la francophonie a attiré plus de 11 000 personnes, hier matin, à Ottawa.

C'est le plus grand rassemblement de francophones de l'histoire de l'Ontario. Celui du 22 mars 1997, en faveur du maintien de l'hôpital Montfort, avait réuni 10 000 personnes au Centre municipal d'Ottawa

Hier, la foule était surtout composée d'étudiants des écoles primaires et secondaires de la région, qui ont envahi le très grand terrain de l'école Charlotte-Lemieux pour célébrer la Journée du drapeau franco-ontarien. Ils ont hissé le grand drapeau de 15 mètres par 5 mètres en haut du mât de 30 mètres. Le drapeau est visible de très loin et les automobilistes circulant sur l'autoroute 417, qui passe tout près, ne pourront pas le manquer. Les organisateurs de la fête avaient nolisé quelque 200 autobus pour transporter les jeunes dont certains provenaient d'aussi loin que Pembroke.

Réunis sur le terrain de l'école, les élèves ont dansé au son du groupe Swing et applaudi des danseurs des écoles secondaires de la région. Le chanteur Brian Saint-Pierre a aussi participé à la fête de même que les Tambourinaires du Burundi.

Le président du comité organisateur, Alain Vachon, jubilait. "C'est formidable. Lors du rassemblement de Montfort, on était en lutte, mais aujourd'hui, les gens sont ici pour fêter, pour célébrer leur fierté franco-ontarienne et souligner le jour de leur drapeau. C'est une journée historique", a déclaré M. Vachon.

Le directeur général de l'hôpital Montfort, Gérald Savoie, était du même avis. "C'est extraordinaire de voir tous ces jeunes et de constater la diversité culturelle au sein de la communauté francophone", a-t-il commenté.

La cérémonie a beaucoup plu à M. Georges Orfali, un ancien directeur de l'école Charlotte-Lemieux maintenant à la retraite. M. Orfali a insisté pour qu'un des monuments de la Francophonie soit installé dans l'ouest de la ville. "Je voyais que tout s'en allait dans l'est, mais il y a maintenant beaucoup de francophones dans l'ouest et j'ai pensé qu'il fallait le reconnaître de façon tangible. Ce grand drapeau, on le verra de l'autoroute et il sera visible dans tout le quartier. Regardez ces jeunes. Ils viennent de tous les horizons, de toutes les cultures. Ils ont choisi de s'intégrer à la communauté francophone et il faut les accueillir à bras ouverts. Ils vont se souvenir de cette journée. En 1997, j'ai emmené mes enfants au rassemblement de SOS Montfort et ils s'en rappellent très bien aujourd'hui", a déclaré M. Orfali.

L'événement a attiré des gens de toute la région dont de nombreux politiciens, professeurs et anciens professeurs. M. Richard Hudon s'est rendu à la fête sur un vélo couché auquel il avait attaché un grand drapeau franco-ontarien. "Nous sommes 6500 professeurs francophones en Ontario et j'aimerais que nous ayons tous un drapeau franco-ontarien sur nos véhicules", a déclaré M. Hudon.

Le projet des monuments de la francophonie est presque complété. Le sixième et dernier drapeau géant sera inauguré devant la Caisse populaire Trillium, le 16 octobre prochain.



Le mardi 25 sept 2007

Des menaces de mort dans la bouche d'un prof ?

André Mercier

Le Droit

Selon la version de plusieurs enfants, un professeur de musique d'une école primaire du secteur Gatineau les aurait menacés de leur casser les dents avec une masse, de leur couper la tête à la tronçonneuse et de leur donner de l'arsenic.

Abasourdie par les propos que son enfant de quatrième année lui a répétés, une mère de famille a décidé de rendre les menaces publiques, hier midi, sur les ondes de CJRC 104,7 fm.

Jointe par *Le Droit*, la mère, qui requiert l'anonymat, s'inquiète pour le bien-être des élèves de cette école. Le professeur de musique, qui est selon la mère généralement apprécié des jeunes, n'aurait pas su contrôler sa colère, le 13 septembre dernier.

Devant un groupe agité, l'enseignant aurait demandé à un élève de la classe de dessiner une clé de "la" sur une portée. Devant l'erreur de l'enfant, le professeur lui aurait lancé qu'il a "du Jell-O dans la tête".

Escalade

"Ensuite, ça a escaladé, soutient la mère. Il a dit 'je vais apporter une masse, je vais vous casser les dents *pis* je vais faire un collier avec vos dents'. Il leur a dit qu'il allait leur donner de l'arsenic, et qu'il allait apporter une tronçonneuse pour leur couper la tête et mettre leurs têtes sur le mur."

À la fin du cours, il aurait mentionné aux jeunes du groupe que "dans son temps", les professeurs frappaient les doigts des élèves avec des règles en bois, et que s'il avait pu, il s'en serait servi.

Ce n'est que la semaine dernière que la mère a appris ce qui se serait produit. Informée par d'autres parents, la mère a posé des questions à son enfant. "Mon enfant m'a dit qu'il avait eu peur et qu'il ne voulait pas retourner dans son cours de musique, se rappelle-t-elle. Il sait que l'arsenic ça peut le faire souffrir et le faire mourir."

Congédiement demandé

Le père d'un élève de la même classe a confirmé au *Droit*, hier, les propos qu'aurait tenus l'enseignant. "J'ai validé tout ça avec mon enfant, sans lui mettre les mots dans la bouche", souligne-t-il. Ce père a mentionné que trois parents ont rencontré le directeur de l'école à ce sujet, hier matin. "On veut que le professeur soit congédié, pas seulement qu'il soit transféré ailleurs."

Plusieurs parents songent même à porter plainte pour menaces de mort auprès de la Police de Gatineau.

À l'école primaire, le directeur a indiqué que l'établissement "fait enquête là-dessus", en précisant que le travail se fait "en étroite collaboration" avec la Commission scolaire

des Draveurs (CSD). "Chaque fois qu'un parent me rencontre, je prends toujours le commentaire très au sérieux", affirme le directeur de l'école. "C'est certain qu'on agit", a de son côté mentionné le directeur général de la CSD, François Jetté.

L'enseignant aurait de son côté été suspendu, hier et aujourd'hui, mais la direction de l'école refuse de confirmer cette information. "Je me demande comment ça se fait que la direction de l'école, les deux personnes en haut, ne passent pas dans les corridors et n'entendent pas un professeur qui crie", déplore la mère de famille.



Le lundi 24 sept 2007

Objectif: 29,7 millions

[Mario Boulianne](#)

Le Droit

L'équipe de la campagne de financement de Centraide Ottawa a mis la barre très haute cette année.

Wayne Wouters, président de la campagne 2007, a annoncé un objectif de dons de 29,7 millions \$ lors du déjeuner de lancement qui avait lieu vendredi matin, au Centre des congrès d'Ottawa. Plus de 1400 personnes ont participé à ce déjeuner de lancement, servi par des personnalités de la région.

Originaire de la Saskatchewan, M. Wouters est secrétaire du Secrétariat du Conseil du Trésor du Canada. Lors du lancement de la campagne, il a livré un message d'espoir aux personnes présentes. "À une époque où, par exemple, 24 % des enfants d'Ottawa vivent sous le seuil de la pauvreté, je sais au fond de mon coeur que participer à la campagne de Centraide est la bonne chose à faire pour cette communauté et pour moi-même."

Pour atteindre cet objectif, des campagnes auront lieu dans plus de 1800 lieux de travail d'Ottawa grâce à l'engagement de 14 000 bénévoles. Ces chiffres comprennent les campagnes régulières et les campagnes éclairs que mèneront les 107 agences et ministères fédéraux de la région de la capitale. Bien que les retenues salariales demeurent pour Centraide une importante source de financement dans les lieux de travail, plusieurs entreprises du secteur privé, de même que des ministères gouvernementaux, organiseront des activités spéciales.

"C'est la première fois qu'un membre de la fonction publique est à la tête de notre campagne annuelle, et nous avons là une excellente occasion d'attirer l'attention sur la très grande générosité des employés et des retraités fédéraux de notre communauté, a souligné Michael Allen, président et directeur général de Centraide Ottawa. Chaque année, presque la moitié de l'argent recueilli pendant notre campagne communautaire provient des dons des fonctionnaires."

L'an dernier, 28,2 millions \$ ont été amassés. L'objectif de cette année représente une augmentation de 5 %. La campagne prendra fin le 29 novembre lors d'une soirée de clôture qui aura lieu au Hampton Inn. On y dévoilera alors la somme amassée au cours de la campagne.

Chantal en spectacle

C'est ce week-end qu'aura lieu le Festival de la Grande descente de la Gatineau. Une foule d'activités seront présentées lors de cet événement, dont la spectaculaire course de canots ainsi que plusieurs spectacles.

D'ailleurs, sur la scène du parc Mary-Ann-Phillips de Cantley, samedi soir, on présentera le spectacle de **Chantal Paquette**.

Chantal, qui est la grande soeur du guitariste **Ricky Paquette**, sera précédée sur scène par les groupes **Fuzz Funkie** et **Sahara Night**.

Une soirée pour les diabétiques



Agrandir 

Le groupe **Les Violons en fête** a encore une fois diverti tout en aidant un organisme communautaire de l'Outaouais. Récemment, une soirée dansante mettant en vedette Les Violons a permis de recueillir plus de 700 \$ qui ont été remis aux Diabétiques de l'Outaouais. À l'avant plan: les musiciens **Léo-Claire Girard, Jacques Labelle, Donald Martin, Andréanne Vanasse** et **Gilles St-Laurent**, des Diabétiques de l'Outaouais ainsi que les musiciens **Raymond Proulx, François Plouffe** et **Alfred Sabourin**.

La culture franco célébrée

Dès demain, et ce jusqu'à samedi, la Nouvelle Scène célèbre la culture franco-ontarienne.

L'exposition des oeuvres d'**André Asselin** ainsi que les concerts de **La Ligue du Bonheur**, de **Brian St-Pierre** et d'**Amélie Lefebvre** agrémenteront une programmation variée.

Mercredi, à compter de 19 h, la Nouvelle Scène et ses quatre compagnies résidentes tiendront leur 5 à 7 annuel en compagnie des directeurs artistiques et des représentants des compagnies. Il y aura également le lancement de la 10e programmation de Réseau Ontario, de la saison musicale de la Nouvelle Scène et du livre sur les 35 ans de Théâtre Action de **Joël Beddows**.

Pour en savoir plus, je vous invite à visiter le site Internet www.nouvellescene.com ou à composer le 613-241-2727.

On déjeune avec le maire

Ils sont des dizaines, voire des centaines de bénévoles qui s'activent présentement à l'organisation de la 15e édition du Déjeuner du maire.

L'événement se tiendra le dimanche 2 décembre au luxueux Hilton Lac-Leamy de Gatineau. Paradoxe s'il en est un, ce déjeuner permettra à des centaines de familles gatinoises de passer un temps des Fêtes plus agréable puisque toutes les "recettes" de l'événement serviront à confectionner des paniers de provisions.

Ces denrées seront ensuite redistribuées aux familles défavorisées par l'entremise de la Société St-Vincent de Paul.

Depuis plusieurs années déjà, le Déjeuner du maire se tient à guichets fermés. Il est donc important pour ceux et celles qui veulent y participer de se procurer des billets à l'avance.

Les points de vente n'ont pas encore été publiés par les organisateurs. D'ailleurs, une conférence de presse est prévue pour le mois de novembre afin de rendre publics tous les détails de l'événement.

Gilles Marcoux, président de la Corporation du Déjeuner du maire, s'attend encore une fois à une édition record. Et si le maire **Marc Bureau** tient le coup et ne fait pas

repousser sa moustache, le 15e Déjeuner du maire sera un événement marquant pour M. Bureau et son entourage.

Les médias au golf



La 5e édition de la Classique des médias a permis d'amasser 34 480 \$, et ce, grâce à la participation de 144 golfeurs. L'événement, qui se tenait au club de golf Hautes-Plaines, est présenté sous le parrainage de plusieurs médias de l'Outaouais. Tous les profits sont redistribués à la Fondation du centre hospitalier Pierre-Janet. Sur la photo: **Jacques Blais**, de La Revue de Gatineau, Me **Pierre Landry**, président de la Fondation, **Robert H. Parent**, de Radio Nord Communications, **Denis Bouchard**, d'Astral Média, et **Éric Poirier**, du FM Parlé de

l'Outaouais

Les arts à Franco-Cité

L'équipe du Fonds Amusécole était de passage la semaine dernière à l'école secondaire catholique Franco-Cité.

Ce fonds, qui soutient les rêves des élèves, a voulu donner un coup de pouce aux élèves de Franco-Cité dans la réalisation de leurs projets artistiques en leur donnant une bourse de 3500 \$. Cette somme permettra la mise en place d'ateliers de musique et de danse, en plus de faire l'acquisition d'équipement pour l'organisation d'une veillée canadienne.

Un défi pour contrer la faim



L'entreprise Kraft Canada et l'organisme Moisson Outaouais font équipe pour l'organisation du Défi Kraft contre la faim. Les deux partenaires organisent une activité pour montrer que les besoins en nourriture sont présents pendant les 12 mois de l'année, et non seulement pendant la période des Fêtes. Kraft Canada s'engage donc à faire un don à parité, au dollar près, pour tous les dons recueillis dans le cadre du Défi Kraft contre la faim. C'est dans cette optique que la Banque Nationale du Canada a décidé de faire un don de 2100 \$ à Moisson Outaouais. Le montant est donc doublé par Kraft Canada. Moisson Outaouais contribue à alléger le fardeau des organismes urbains et ruraux en assumant le rôle de banque alimentaire régionale. La banque alimentaire régionale permet de mieux répondre aux besoins des individus en précarité alimentaire.

Sur la photo: **Richard Ferland**, directeur principal du service aux entreprises de la Banque Nationale du Canada; **Jean Pigeon**, directeur de Moisson Outaouais et **Éric Corcoran**, vice-président de Sport échange Outaouais inc, et président d'honneur de la classique annuelle de golf BNC.

SEASON PREVIEW

Wayne Kondro

The Ottawa Citizen

Tuesday, September 25, 2007

In sports, events occasionally defy conventional wisdom.

Teams come from nowhere, for example, and make altogether improbable title or medal runs.

When it happens, it's a special moment, as local hoops aficionados may discover in this year's National Capital Secondary Schools Athletic Association campaign, which tipped off Monday on five fronts.

In fact, there's an excellent chance that will occur as the Louis Riel Rebelles, who have never qualified for an Ontario Federation of School Athletic Association tournament and who feature a roster chock full of Grade 9 and 10 players, might well be the favourite to win the Double-A provincial title in St. Thomas next month.



CREDIT: Chris Mikula, The Ottawa Citizen
Stephanie Macdonald will lead St. Peter into the 2007 basketball season.

The Rebelles don't have the best player in the city. Most observers would likely award that honour to St. Peter guard Stephanie Macdonald, Merivale post Jenna Gilbert or Ashbury post Anneka Bakker.

Yet the Rebelles promise a calibre never before seen at the Double-A level. Riel starts three players - slasher Kelly Ring, point guard Emilie Vachon and 6-2 post Micaëlla Riche, a transfer from Kingston - who will probably have National Elite Development Academy officials banging on their doors when they become eligible to attend the Hamilton-based national basketball high school upon reaching Grade 11.

Capitalizing on the school's new program in sport studies, the Rebelles also have a raft of so-called role players, including Francesca Bellehumeur-Moya, Yolam Anderson-Golhar, Idil Hussein and Jose Descoeurs, who would star at many other schools.

One of them, in fact, did. Descoeurs was the starting post for Colonel By last season. Still, coach Andre Desjardins is quick to rein in expectations, saying his troops must get past the six-time defending Double-A champ St. Paul Golden Bears just to make the provincials.

"We have a very, very young squad, and with youth comes a little bit of inconsistency," Desjardins says. "But our biggest asset, no question, is our athleticism, 1 through 10."

Golden Bears coach Dan Pignat, meanwhile, hopes a guard-oriented line-up

featuring Samantha Bayne, Anna Dupuis and Dianna Schembri can somehow extend the St. Paul dynasty.

Ashbury should make a deep run at the Single-A provincials in Port Hope, as the Colts return Bakker, Charlotte Mac-Kenzie, Illesha Uko and Alise Malouff from last year's provincial silver-medal unit, while adding several transfers including Nicole Uher from Sacred Heart. A knee injury suffered last weekend makes MacKenzie's status questionable.

Still, the Colts are a provincial contender.

"We're definitely stronger than we were last year, although Charlotte's injury raises a bit of question mark," coach Andy Sparks says. "But I think we have enough depth to get past that."

The Rebelles, Colts and Bears will compete in the NCSAA's AA/A division, along with Osgoode, Rideau and Samuel Genest. Osgoode lacks size but respected coach David Buckingham invariably fields a hard-working unit.

Last year's Tier 2 champs will rely heavily on Nastasia Wasilewski for production, while Rideau coach Erin O'Grady will look to Awo Farah and Abajedo Aballa for points and leadership.

At the Quad and Triple-A levels, the NCSSAA will pilot a new system for choosing city representatives to the provincials, in Windsor and Brockville, respectively.

Instead of separate divisional competitions, the NCSSAA will lump all 20 schools falling within those categories into a single group and hold one championship tournament, at a single site. The last two teams standing will venture to OFSAA.

If one comes from Quad-A and the other from Triple-A, both will automatically advance to the appropriate provincials. But if both come from Triple-A, as is altogether likely, the winner will choose which OFSAA draw it wants to enter, while the loser attends the other.

The shift is being made to improve NCSSAA competitiveness at the Quad-A provincial draw, says convenor Selwyn Desouza. With only four Quad-A schools in the city, it has often been the case that a weak team qualifies for Quad-A OFSAA while a more competitive Triple-A unit stays home. It should make for a madcap postseason tournament, particularly as there isn't a prohibitive favourite in the NCSSAA's AAA/AAAA division.

St. Peter will contend on the talents of MacDonald and slashing guard Dayna Dover. Macdonald, who is now weighing scholarship offers from a dozen American universities, is athletic, quick and has incredible length, a dimension much coveted by university coaches.

"There is no better player, all-around, in the city," Knights coach Mario Gaetano says. "It's her arm length, her speed and her desire to win at all costs. They really set her apart. She's lanky and she attacks the rim really well. She's a natural scorer."

St. Matthew, by contrast, has excellent depth. Among returnees are Lauren Carey, Sondre Boscoe, Jillian Mason and Stephanie Sabourin, while a raft of juniors, including Jessica Resch and Trish Grey step up from the city's junior champs.

"We have 12 kids that can play," Tigers coach and 2-3 zone devotee Rick Despatie says. Gilbert makes defending Quad-A champ

Merivale's a factor, but other than Jody Duncan and Melissa Baynes, the Marauders have little experience, leaving coach Ali Johnson to fret about lack of depth.

"We just don't have the numbers. We're begging for nine players right now," he says.

Guards Alyson Bush and Lina Aywas make St. Patrick competitive, but coach Tina St. Amour says Irish hopes will likely rest on the development of young post players, such as Akon Bwolo. Guards Christie Childers, Frances Grout-Brown and rookie post Robin Croteau will lead the Colonel By Cougars.

"We're quick, so we'll be able to press from start to finish," coach Aaron Leach says.

St. Joseph and Hillcrest are darkhorse contenders. The Jaguars feature 6-3 post Erika Gratton and point guard Lia Blake.

"We have to use our strength, which is our size. Sometimes we get away from that," coach Joseph Diffey says.

The Hawks, meanwhile, will rely on the talents of Yar Shayok, Jenna Love and Sara Hickman.

"Our defence will be key," co-coach Peter Kratz says.

Glebe coach Alex Overwijk hopes Kashani Thomas, Alex Bateman and Haley Max-Lino can help the Gryphons resolve last year's inability to put the ball in the hole, while South Carleton returns to the league after coach Natalie Johnston folded the team last year when just five girls tried out.

The Storm will be led by Mandy Oatway, who toiled for the boy's team after the girl's unit folded.

With Canterbury returning Jen Wolfe-Bard, Ashley Maves and Nadya Pohran, coach John Corrente is optimistic.

"It's a wide-open field and we've got the best shot at OFSAA we've ever had," he says.

Sacred Heart welcomes playmaker Jennifer Stoqua and Teal Marraway from the junior ranks, but Huskies coach Frank Harris says that with little depth, avoiding injuries will be critical.

Defending Triple-A champ St. Mark coach Byron McInnis rebuilds around Kayla Iaselece, while Nepean coach Scot Symes will look to athletic guard Heather Ambery for leadership.

Earl of March and Sir Robert Borden join the Tier I ranks.

The Lions will depend on guards Brianna Drodge and Seema Dhingra and "are looking forward to getting back into senior basketball," says coach Martha Ashfield, while Bengals coach Pam Faulkner hopes Sudbury transfer Sara Morrison, Laleah Croyn and Julia Hajjar "get our program back up and running."

Bell coach Mike Molougney says Quinn Taylor, Michelle Kloppenburd and Asya Bartley must step up for the Bruins.

"Our keys to success will be to be dynamic on offence and move the ball fast, stay tight on defence and maintain under composure under pressure," Molougney says. Beatrice Desloges will place its faith in Anne-Marie Lalonde, while Gloucester and St. Pius fill out the loop.

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Le mardi 25 sept 2007

Georges Orfali, un leader du rassemblement

Alain Vachon, président

Monuments de la francophonie d'Ottawa

Le Droit

Sans l'implication de Georges Orfali dans le projet des Monuments de la francophonie d'Ottawa depuis décembre 2005, le plus grand rassemblement franco-ontarien de l'histoire en ce 25 septembre 2007, à l'école Charlotte-Lemieux, n'aurait pas lieu. Effectivement, alors qu'il était directeur de cette même école, c'est lui qui a initié cette belle aventure qui est vécue aujourd'hui.

M. Orfali a fortement impressionné lorsqu'il a surmonté, avec brio, les nombreux défis de soumettre la candidature de l'école Charlotte-Lemieux en moussant l'appui communautaire, en recrutant plusieurs centaines, voire des milliers de lettres d'appui, en recevant une résolution du Conseil d'école qui a aussi accepté d'inclure de son mince budget une contribution de 500 \$. Son leadership contagieux a aussi convaincu son Conseil scolaire de s'impliquer profondément. C'est ainsi qu'en mars 2006, le Richelieu International et le comité organisateur des Monuments annoncent le site de l'école élémentaire publique Charlotte-Lemieux comme 6e site sélectionné pour ce projet historique.

Depuis, M. Orfali a pris sa retraite du milieu de l'éducation et a tout de suite sauté dans la course aux élections pour devenir conseiller scolaire au sein des écoles publiques de l'Est de l'Ontario. Il a aussi sollicité l'appui de la communauté et de ses collègues au Conseil pour adhérer à l'idée de faire de l'inauguration du Monument le plus grand rassemblement de l'histoire de la francophonie ontarienne. M. Orfali a siégé au comité organisateur de l'événement, a préparé des trousseaux pédagogiques pour les élèves, a livré des drapeaux aux écoles, a fait de nombreux suivis téléphoniques et a joué un rôle clé pour faire de cet événement une célébration sans précédent et ce, dans un esprit de collaboration et d'inclusivité. Nous comptons plus de 200 autobus d'élèves, de parents et d'amis qui assisteront à ce mega spectacle aujourd'hui.

Je crois que notre communauté est plus forte par le fait que de grandes personnes comme lui se donnent pour le bien de la francophonie et pour le bien des élèves. Ces personnes extraordinaires servent d'exemple et de modèle devant la jeunesse qui sera, elle aussi, à l'image de Georges Orfali, leader sur la prémisse que des gestes et des actions concrètes parlent plus fort que des paroles.



September 26, 2007

Local schools seek fairness

By MEGAN GILLIS, SUN MEDIA

They look like any other schools.

At Redeemer Christian High School, Grade 10 students in their uniform of "neat, clean and decent" work on improv sketches in drama class.

At Hillel Academy, Grade 2 students, the boys in yarmulkes, chime in as their French teacher leads them in song.

Both schools teach the Ontario curriculum, both hired qualified teachers and both have leaders who argue that funding their schools is simple fairness.

With 650,000 students, the Catholic system is an experiment that worked, said Redeemer principal Leo Van Arragon.

"We're inspected by the Ministry of Education," he said. "We want to be part of the public umbrella.

"The fundamental thing is it's an issue of fairness."

COALITION LAUNCHED

Van Arragon is one of the founders of the Public Education Fairness Network, a coalition including Christians, Muslims and Jews launched in Ottawa this week to secure public funding provincewide.

He and his Hillel counterpart, Rabbi Dr. Jeremiah Unterman, support the Conservative plan to fund faith-based schools.

They say opponents unfairly argue religious schools are elitist, isolate kids and will bankrupt the public system.

"The reality is just the opposite," Unterman said. "The kids who are going to public and Catholic schools have been getting a free ride from the parents of kids who go to faith-based schools, who are paying taxes so kids can go to schools other than their own.

"We're second-class citizens."

At Redeemer, the 178 students start their day with prayer and subjects such as evolution are taught in the context of a universe created by a loving God.

At Hillel, the 300 youngsters in kindergarten to Grade 8 learn Hebrew and celebrate their faith. After school yesterday, they marked Sukkot by decorating a hut in the schoolyard, symbolizing the 40 years that early Jews wandered the desert.

Both schools say they'd like to be able to give their middle-class parents a break and have more money to spend, on boosting salaries at Redeemer and air-conditioning for sweltering classrooms at Hillel.

At Redeemer, parents pay \$5,650 to \$12,000 for all their kids, depending on income. At Hillel, parents pay \$8,600 per pupil or less for families with several children.

At both schools, directors at both schools deny that their students are isolated by their faith-based instruction, arguing that they compete against other schools in sports, play with neighbours after school and go on to

multicultural high schools or universities.

"There are no ghettos in the Ottawa community," Unterman said.



September 26, 2007

Tory breaks faith Religious school stand a loser

By **ANTONELLA ARTUSO** AND JAMES WALLACE, QUEEN'S PARK BUREAU

One in two Ontarians believes Progressive Conservative Leader John Tory's policy to fund private religious schools with public dollars will segregate the province along religious lines, SES Research president Nik Nanos says.

An exclusive Sun Media-SES Research poll reveals widespread voter opposition to what has become the most controversial policy in Ontario's election campaign.

"Mixing politics and religion is always a very dangerous activity," Nanos said. "During the leaders' debate last week there was an exchange where John Tory tried to attack Dalton McGuinty for putting up the bogeyman of segregation," he said.

"But you know what? The majority of Ontarians -- one out of every two -- agree with Dalton McGuinty on that."

25% BACKING

Only a quarter of voters support Tory's view that extending public funding to Christian, Jewish, Muslim and other private faith-based schools would provide fairness and choice for all families.

Antipathy toward the proposal is even stronger in the Greater Toronto Area, where minorities represent more than half the population, and where 57% feel it's a divisive policy.

Outside the GTA, the percentage of voters concerned about segregation drops to 44%.

DIVERSE COMMUNITY

"I think what it shows is Ontarians who live in communities that tend to be more ethnically and culturally diverse are the most worried about things getting worse, of dividing the community as opposed to uniting the community," Nanos said.

That has potentially negative implications for Conservative hopes to capture seats in the vote-rich GTA.

"The 905 belt is really one of the key battlegrounds for the election -- whoever wins 905 wins the election ...," Nanos said.

The poll also found 46% of Ontarians believe there are major problems with the public school system. But almost 40% think the public system is good and getting better.

Nanos said those findings have traction for the Liberals because they are campaigning both on the premise that the public system needs major work and that it is getting better. "The Liberals are not vulnerable the way the debate is currently framed," he said.



September 26, 2007

Carleton U sex assault victim wasn't raped

By KENNETH JACKSON

In an unusual move, the victim of a sexual assault at Carleton University put out a message yesterday she wasn't raped.

The 23-year-old victim had the Ottawa Sexual Assault unit at the Ottawa Hospital tell CTV Ottawa she was never raped as some media had reported.

"There was a degree of sexual assault ... but there was no penetration of her body in any way," a hospital spokeswoman said.

The Sun never reported the woman had been raped, only that she had been sexually assaulted while working late at the university on Sept. 1.

In its report, the TV station said the woman is Muslim and because of her faith she could be considered "tainted" if she was raped.

September 26, 2007

Protest rising costs on ballot

By **NELLY ELAYOUBI, SUN MEDIA**

With the provincial election only two weeks away, university students want voters to remember them when casting their votes.

Dragging a big, black ball of debt by a chain and loudly chanting, about 150 local university students closed in on Premier Dalton McGuinty's campaign office on Bank St. yesterday with a loud message -- bring tuition fees down.

"On Oct. 10, students across Ontario will show Dalton McGuinty we will not tolerate increased tuition fees," said Ben Lewis, 26, of the Canadian Federation of Students Ontario. "On Oct. 10, students are going to vote."

They left McGuinty a pledge on a placard for him to sign and a three-day deadline to do so.

REDUCE FEES

Students are calling on McGuinty to increase funding for universities, reduce fees, boost grants and halt the collection of "illegal" ancillary fees.

"It would be a great opportunity for him to really show his commitment to post-secondary education in Ontario," said Isaac Cockburn, 27, vice-president of student issues for Carleton University's student association.

He said tuition fees have risen more than 200% in the past 15 years.

Donnie Northrup, 19, expects he'll be \$25,000 to \$45,000 in debt by the time he finishes his studies. The third-year Carleton University student wants to pursue a Master's degree in environmental law.

"That's not a good economic outlook," he said. "But that's the reality of today."

McGuinty's campaign manager, John Fraser, said they won't be signing the pledge.

"We committed in our last platform to freeze tuition for two years," Fraser said. "We did that."

They've expanded student loans and started giving out grants again, Fraser added.

And for every \$1 students and their families put into post-secondary education, the provincial Liberals put in \$3, he said.

Divisive schools issue splits Tories

Conservative leader John Tory's faith-based school funding proposal may not have been the right strategy to win him a breakthrough seat in Ottawa

Mark Sutcliffe

The Ottawa Citizen

Wednesday, September 26, 2007

Conservative leader John Tory says you can never go wrong doing the right thing. But some Ottawa-area Conservative supporters are wondering whether Tory's stand on funding for faith-based schools was the wrong strategy for the election campaign.

Tory and his advisers insist the leader is taking a principled position on an important issue by proposing that provincial funding be extended to all faith-based schools that meet the criteria of the education department. But his proposal may be costing the Conservatives a chance at a breakthrough in urban Ottawa.

The Conservatives had hoped to gain at least one seat in the area. At the outset of the campaign, they figured their best chance was in Ottawa-Orléans. Tory himself has spent a lot of time supporting the campaign of Graham Fox, a promising new candidate running in that riding. Fox, who is challenging incumbent Liberal backbencher Phil McNeely, is bilingual and the son of a former adviser to Brian Mulroney.

Now, however, Conservative pundits are less optimistic about Fox's chances. And the schools issue may be the difference. Across the region, Conservative volunteers are hearing about Tory's proposal when they knock on doors. And the response is generally unfavourable.

Longtime Leeds-Grenville Conservative MPP Bob Runciman spoke publicly about voter resistance a week ago when he told a reporter about the school issue: "It's not playing well."

On Monday, Bruce Murdoch, the sitting Conservative MPP for Bruce-Grey-Owen Sound, announced he would vote against Tory's plan in the legislature.

For his part, Fox says the school funding issue is less of a topic at the door today than it was in the past.

"Six weeks ago, the questions were a little more pointed," he said. "I think the



CREDIT: Pat McGrath, The Ottawa Citizen

The Conservatives had hoped to gain at least one seat in the Ottawa, and figured their best chance was in Ottawa-Orléans with Graham Fox. Some say the schools issue has hurt Mr. Fox's chances, but the new candidate is not concerned, and he says the central issue is taxes.

questions now are much more about our making the case better. In Ottawa-Orléans, it isn't the central issue. Taxes are."

Funding for faith-based schools is a divisive issue. Tory may have thought his proposal was a principled stand, but he may also have figured it was an opportunity to drive a wedge between the Liberals and some of their traditional supporters, including voters who are currently sending their children to private religious schools.

But the issue seems to have divided Tory's own party and its supporters. Many traditional Conservative voters are leery of extending funding to each and every faith and they question why Tory has become a champion of the cause when their area candidate comes to the door.

Worse, as Runciman pointed out, the school funding proposal seems to be distracting voters from the theme the Conservatives would rather see dominate the campaign: their portrayal of Dalton McGuinty as a breaker of promises.

Fox says that, unlike Murdoch, he supports the policy as "an issue of basic fairness." And he points out that it isn't about funding private schools, but bringing private schools into the public system. That's a distinction Tory himself is trying to make as he defends his proposal.

Nevertheless, some observers continue to wonder why he raised the topic in the first place. He might have been better off making sure the central issue of the campaign was McGuinty's unpopular health tax rather than risk distracting voters with a divisive issue.

- - -

Area organizers on both sides of the referendum don't just disagree on electoral reform, they differ on how much attention Ottawa voters are paying to the issue.

On Oct. 10, voters will have a choice of sticking with the current system of electing governments (known as "first-past-the-post") or changing to a mixed-member proportional system, or MMP.

Cindy Long of Vote for MMP Ottawa says the community is paying attention to the issue. She also is optimistic that MMP will get enough votes to pass. On a recent foray into the community, Long says, she and her fellow campaigners encountered people with varying amounts of knowledge on the issue. But of those who said they were planning to vote in the referendum, everyone said they would support MMP.

"Every single person said yes, they would vote for it," says Long. "Not one person said no, I'm dead set against it."

But Graham Sproule of No MMP for Ottawa says he doesn't see the same voter engagement on the issue.

"Most people still seem to be unaware that there is a referendum coming up," he says. "I don't think it's foremost on their minds at all."

Notwithstanding Long's anecdotal evidence, a recent poll showed that MMP does not have enough support to pass and that only a small number of Ontario residents considered themselves well-informed on the issue.

Some voters may be taking it for granted that the MMP proposal will be defeated;

therefore, they might be thinking, they don't need to participate in the debate. But with any issue that stays under the radar, there is the risk of a surprise outcome on election day.

And in Ottawa, MMP supporters appear to be better funded and more organized than their opponents. Long says her group has 1,500 lawn signs in place and is planning a radio advertising campaign closer to election day. The anti-MMP side can't afford lawn signs or ads, says Sproule.

"We have very, very little money," says Sproule. "We're completely low-budget. They're better organized because they've been organizing for much longer."

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Citizen has high school sports covered online Get into the zone with Cleary blog, numerous features

The Ottawa Citizen

Wednesday, September 26, 2007

Ottawa high school athletes and their parents, coaches and teachers have a new online hub at www.ottawacitizen.com starting today.

The Citizen is launching a high school sports zone within its revamped online sports section, dedicated to the exploits of the capital's best student athletes.

Veteran reporter Martin Cleary has been covering amateur sports in the capital for decades, and he brings that experience and inside knowledge to a new format.

In addition to being the host of his new "Scouring the Sidelines" blog, which features some of the extras and quirky stories that don't make the paper, he'll be filing previews, regular-season stories and postseason coverage of a multitude of different high school sports throughout the year.

The site kicks off today with a preview of the senior boys football season and a profile of the St. Mark Catholic High school football Lions.

Reporter Wayne Kondro sets up the girls basketball campaign. (The Kondro feature on the new season of girls basketball can also be seen on page C6 of today's section).

Also featured this autumn is field hockey, starting with a profile of Earl of March senior star Jocelyn Mitchell.

In association with fatdog.ca, the high school sports site will also offer easy-to-navigate links to high school scores and standings, as well as special features such as the Citizen's annual ranking of the top Ottawa schools for athletics, and photo galleries. Cleary will also write an athlete-of-the-week profile.

As the site grows in the coming months, we hope to offer even more features to the capital's thriving amateur sports community.

Please take the time to check it out under "Sports Features" at www.ottawacitizen.com/news/sports.

We value your input, so take a look around and let us know what you think by clicking on the story tip submission link on the page.

Online: Sports

A high school Tier 1 senior boys football season preview

ottawacitizen.com

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Canada fails to track education progress Ranks last of 40 in data given to OECD

Janice Tibbetts

The Ottawa Citizen

Wednesday, September 26, 2007

Canada has only a hazy picture of how its education system fares on the world stage because of the country's failure to adequately track key information, ranging from class size in grade school to the number of university dropouts, says a government-funded agency.

The Canadian Council on Learning says Canada ranked last of 40 countries in the information it provided to the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development for its annual report on the state of education, released last week.

"It's difficult to know how well we're doing and if you don't know where your deficiencies are, then you can't correct them," council president Paul Cappon said yesterday.

Canada was able to supply only 60 per cent of the information provided by other OECD countries, with the majority of Canadian data listed as missing, the council said. Key data on Canada's \$34-billion-a-year post-secondary education sector were in particularly short supply.

"It's rather like being CEO of a large enterprise and investing \$34 billion a year and not being able to tell your investors the results of that investment," Mr. Cappon said.

"Or it's like sending your child to school, but having no idea of how she is progressing."

Mr. Cappon attributes the data shortfall to the fact that, unlike other OECD countries, Canada does not have a national method of collecting and analysing education information.

"We haven't agreed amongst ourselves what we have to collect and why," he said.

The education system must adopt the practices of other OECD countries by setting goals, agreeing on the data to measure success, and building co-ordination within the system so that all education "indicators" -- measuring success -- are being tracked the same way nationwide, Mr. Cappon said.

A major hole in the system is that there is virtually no information on the community college sector, which accounts for half of Canada's post-secondary system, said Mr. Cappon.

"We don't even know how many graduates there are every year," he said. "The consequences are enormous for the institutions and also for learners because they don't know how many are graduating in their field."

Failure to track dropouts is another information gap, leaving Canada without a clear picture of who they are and where they go, Mr. Cappon said.

Canada also does not have a handle on growth in private universities and colleges, he said.

The data for the OECD's annual assessment are currently put together by the Council of Ministers of Education, using information supplied by Statistics Canada.

The federal agency has trouble collecting comparable data from 13 provinces and territories to fit the OECD mould, said Patrice de Broucker, chief of education analysis at Statistics Canada. "We know bits and pieces, but to have an overall picture is difficult," he said.

Statistics Canada is trying to fix the problem by working to align Canada's education indicators with those of the OECD, Mr. de Broucker said.

Mr. Cappon cautioned against blaming Statistics Canada for the deficiencies, arguing that there must be a national body to set and monitor education goals.

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Education becoming great equalizer in bridging gender pay gap, study says

Eric Beauchesne

The Ottawa Citizen

Wednesday, September 26, 2007

Changes in the labour market, including a shortage of skilled workers, will place women and men on a more equal footing over the next three decades, and help reduce the remaining gender pay gap, the TD Bank said in a study yesterday.

"As Canada's population ages, employers will become increasingly reliant on women to fill the skill shortages that will emerge," it said. "And more men will need to learn to operate the washing machine."

But it's education that is the "great equalizer," it said, noting that women -- even more so than men -- are getting the education needed to fill the jobs of the future.

"Women are exceeding men in university enrolment and clustering in service-oriented jobs," it said, noting both areas will be critical to Canada's future prosperity.

But women are already well down that road, it suggested.

Since 1980, the number of women earning more than their spouses has tripled, with 1.3 million women out of 4.6 million couples, now being the primary breadwinner, it noted.

In other words, women outearn men in 28 per cent of Canadian families, quite a step up from the 1980s when this ratio was only 15 per cent, it said, adding that with each generation women have increased their educational attainment and job experience.

Yet, there remains a five-to-15-per-cent shortfall in women's hourly wages that can't be explained by shortfalls in their productivity, their choice of occupations, or experience.

TD economist Beata Caranci, a co-author of the report, said in an interview that she doubts the gap would ever be fully eliminated.

She suggested that discrimination may be a factor behind part of the unexplained gap, and a factor that will continue to some extent.

The gap, however, is narrowest in situations where employers face a high level of competition for workers, the report noted, adding that competition will likely increase as the working-age population shrinks following the retirement of the giant baby boom generation.

With globalization, the strongest job growth will be in highly skilled service production. Women are exceeding men in university enrolment and more often

than men, move into service-oriented jobs.

The report said the proportion of women in the prime working age group of 22 to 44 years who are in the labour force has jumped to more than 80 per cent from just 50 three decades ago.

While the increase in older women, aged 45 to 64 years, who are working has been equally impressive -- rising to 68 per cent -- there is still room for increased participation and reason to believe that that will occur, it said, noting that with each new generation women have been increasing the years they spend in the labour force.

"In addition, women are bearing fewer children and postponing that decision to a later age in life, which facilitates getting an education and entering the labour force," the study said.

Meanwhile, there are regional differences in the labour market participation rates of women, one of the most interesting being in Alberta, where, despite the shortage of workers, the proportion of prime working age women in the labour force is below the national average.

Alberta's relatively low rate is doubly surprising in that the province has traditionally had a higher-than-average proportion of women in the labour force.

At the other end of the spectrum are Quebec, Saskatchewan, Prince Edward Island and New Brunswick, which have the highest participation rates for women in that age group.

Their higher participation rates reflect their having a smaller proportion of immigrant women who tend to have lower labour participation rates, likely as a result of their lack of job experience.

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